

Approved 05/20/2008

**Energy Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 15, 2008**

In attendance: Committee Members Laurel Earnshaw, Peter Bolduc, Gene Cordes, and Cheryl Rowell  
Mr. Kirk Stone (Jordan Institute) and  
Jeff Rowell (Fremont School Board)

Meeting started at 7:11 PM at the Fremont Town Hall

❖ **Jordan Institute Presentation – Kirk Stone ~ Guest Speaker**

➤ Overview

- Institute is 12-13 years old and was set up to address the concerns of the environment on public health
  - Primary focus since 2007 is the climate change and carbon emission reduction in NH
  - Goal is to help reduce fossil fuel use in NH buildings (59% of total)
  - There are four areas where the Jordan Institute helps NH entities that are concerned with reducing fossil fuel use
    - ◆ High Performance buildings – green building consultation/training
      1. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) (national green building standard) and Energy Star Certification (less stringent than LEED)
    - ◆ Public Policy – at the state level and with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
    - ◆ Granite State Energy Efficiency (GSE<sub>2</sub>), a new initiative to secure private dollars for a revolving loan fund to finance a wide range of energy efficiency projects statewide.
    - ◆ NH Partnership for High Performance Schools – Jordan Institutes initiative to “educate communities and school districts about the importance of high performance schools, the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) standard for new and renovated school buildings, and the additional school aid available to schools that achieve CHPS certification” –from the Jordan Inst. website:  
<http://www.thejordaninstitute.org/focus.asp#gsee>. Kirk Stone is the NHPHPS coordinator. More detail to follow.

➤ High Performance (HP) Schools

- Benefits
  - Healthier - Potential for better student performance due to large amount of daylight, better acoustics, better air quality, fewer asthma triggers – data being collected for correlation; increased teacher satisfaction and retention

- Cost Effective - reduced cost of ownership, reduced operating cost; one way to think about this is to consider a performance sticker for your building
  - ◆ cost premium for HP design and construction to be ~1.7 % or ~\$3 per sq. ft.;
  - ◆ reduced liability (lower insurance premiums)
  - ◆ build to CHPS standard and will receive a 3% bonus from building aid (reduced bond cost and tax impact)
- Environmentally Friendly
- HP schools in NH
  - *Merrimack Valley HS* (renovation and wood chip boiler)
    - ◆ Noted: Wood chip plant is a separate building, return about 6 yrs (Kirk was unsure about this number) at present oil cost, needed special design of building, they buy the wood chips from brokers, heats 2 schools and have oil as backup; are wood chip supplies stable? 32 schools in VT are burning wood chips and it has been an economic boost for region, no known grants for installing wood chip plants in schools.
  - *Richmond Middle School* (Hanover)
    - ◆ 105,000 sq. ft., 550 students, new building, spent \$10,000 on wood chips for season vs. \$70000 for oil (not this season)
  - *Profile HS* (1<sup>st</sup> new construction)
  - *Laconia Middle School*
  - *Grantham Elementary School*

➤ **Buildings in Fremont – where do we start?**

- Thus far: Fremont has formed an energy committee that has set up an interaction with the planning board and discussed additions to the Master Plan.
- Assess Performance of Town Buildings - establish a baseline with EPA portfolio manager software which rates the energy efficiency. An Energy Star building will get a score of 75 or better.
- Check with utility companies to determine helpful ways to fund some of the energy efficiency changes for ex. – systems benefit charge (charge to consumer that pays public benefits such as energy efficiency) , energy performance contracting (financing technique - borrow money from utility co. and \$ saved then pays for it – i.e. the bills remain the same until loan is paid off, but the bill doesn't increase because of loan), SmartStart = loan from PSNH

- Considerations of building or renovating – establish goals (think about different standards in the state) and do a computer design; think about improving the building envelope first, then think about renewable energy.

➤ Resources for us

- ◆ *Greening America's Schools* by Greg Kats (see [www.cap-e.com](http://www.cap-e.com) – an consulting and investing in clean energy)
- ◆ *High Performance School Buildings; Resource and Strategy Guide* from the Sustainable Buildings Industry Council
- ◆ *NorthEast Collaborative for High Performance Schools –* Protocols from Northeast Energy Effic. Partnership in Lexington MA
- ◆ *Vermont Fuels for Schools –* Renewable Energy Use Initiative
- ◆ *North Country Resource Conservation and Development –* Rick DeMark in Laconia – BioMass Heating
- ◆ *Energy Guidelines for High Performance Schools*

❖ **Minutes** of March meeting were reviewed and accepted.

❖ **Meeting adjourned** at ~8:55 PM. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008; 7 PM at the Fremont Town Hall.

Notes taken by Cheryl Rowell.